

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of delivering goods from a supplier to a buyer utilizing a system having at least one delivery agent, at least one store, at least one supplier, and a plurality of buyers, wherein the at least one delivery agent, the at least one store, and the at least one supplier are coupled to a communications network, said method comprising the steps of:

a respective store contemporaneously communicating respective order information to a logistics intermediary;

said logistics intermediary electronically communicating respective invoice information generated from said respective order information to a respective delivery agent based on an electronic manifest;

said respective delivery agent noting exceptions and electronically communicating the exceptions to said logistics intermediary;

said logistics intermediary electronically communicating exceptions to said respective supplier and to the respective store from which goods were ordered;

said respective delivery agent electronically communicating the disposition status of the respective shipped goods to said logistics intermediary; and

said logistics intermediary updating said electronic manifest.

2. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, wherein said step of said respective delivery agent electronically communicating the status of the shipped goods further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent shipping said ordered goods to the respective buyer.

3. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, wherein said communications network is an Internet based communication system.

4. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of said logistics intermediary communicates shipping information comprises the step of selecting at least one delivery date based on available delivery capacity for each respective delivery agent.

5 5. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of the respective supplier adding delivery information to said electronic manifest, wherein the delivery information comprises the quantity, type, and delivery date of respective goods to be delivered to said respective delivery agent.

10 6. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 5, wherein each respective buyer selects a delivery date for each respective good based on the available delivery schedule identified in said electronic manifest.

15 7. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 1, wherein said order information communicated by said respective buyer comprises the brand of good, type of good selected, model number of the good selected, the installation service selected, the delivery address, and the delivery date selected.

8. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 7, further comprising the step of said logistics intermediary generating a respective invoice and communicating the invoice to said respective store.

20 9. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 8, further comprising the step of said logistics intermediary communicating the respective master requisition labels and an associated manufacturer shipping labels to said respective delivery agent.

25 10. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of said logistics intermediary communicating said respective master requisition number and an associated manufacturer shipping number to said respective store.

11. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 10, further comprising the step of said respective store communicating said respective manufacturer shipping number and associated shipping address to said respective supplier.

5 12. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 11, further comprising the step of said respective supplier generating a respective purchase order, advance shipping notice, and purchase order label associated with the respective master requisition number.

10 13. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 12, further comprising the step of said respective supplier communicating said respective purchase order invoice to said respective store.

14. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 9, further comprising the step of said logistics intermediary communicating said respective manufacturer shipping number and associated shipping address to said respective store.

15 15. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 14, further comprising the step of said respective supplier delivering the respective good to said respective delivery agent.

16. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 15, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent noting exceptions.

20 17. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 16, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent attaching the shipping label from said logistics intermediary to the associated good .

18. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent communicating the shipping status and exceptions to said logistics intermediary.

25 19. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 18, further comprising the step of said logistics intermediary communicating the shipping status and exceptions to said respective store.

20. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 18, further comprising the step of said respective store communicating the shipping status and exceptions to said respective supplier.

21. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 20, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent confirming the respective good delivery date and associated delivery time of day with said respective buyer.

22. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 21, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent delivering the respective good to the respective buyer.

23. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 17, further comprising the step of said respective delivery agent communicating the shipping disposition to said logistics intermediary.

24. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 5, wherein the delivery information comprises the quantity of goods, type of goods, and delivery date of respective goods to be shipped to each respective delivery agent.

25. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 7, wherein the service desired comprises the type of installation of the respective good at the respective buyers address.

26. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of noting exceptions comprises the step of identifying "overage", "shortage", "damage", and "suspend".

27. The method of delivering goods as recited in claim 16, wherein the step of recording the shipping disposition comprises the step of identifying "complete", "damage", "refusal", and "cancel".

28. A system for delivering goods from a plurality of suppliers to a plurality of buyers based on respective orders placed by the plurality of buyers, said system comprising:

a communications network;

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5 a logistics intermediary coupled to said communications network, said logistics intermediary having an electronic manifest; wherein said logistics intermediary is adapted to adjust good deliveries based on an exception report and a disposition report.

at least one delivery agent coupled to said communications network, wherein said at least one delivery agent is adapted to delivery and install the goods ordered by the respective buyer based on information in said electronic manifest; and

10 at least one store coupled to said communications network, wherein said at least one store is adapted to receive orders information generated by each respective buyer and communicate the order information to said logistics intermediary via said communications network.

29. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 28, wherein said communications network is an Internet based communications network.

15 30. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 29, wherein said communications network further comprises at least one computing unit A having a display and being adapted to be coupled to an Internet based server.

20 31. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 30, wherein said communications network further comprises a computing unit B having a display and being adapted to communicate with said at least one computing unit A via the Internet based server.

32. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 31, wherein said computing unit B is adapted to house the electronic manifest and the delivery management system.

25 33. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 31, wherein said computing unit A further comprises a scanner, said scanner being adapted to scan bar

code labels and to uplink and unload data via said respective computing unit A to said logistics intermediary.

34. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 33, wherein said scanner further comprises a scanner display and keyboard input.

5 35. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 28, wherein said logistics intermediary is adapted to generate a master requisition label, associated manufacturer shipping labels, and an advanced shipping notice.

10 36. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 28, wherein said logistics intermediary is adapted to communicate with said respective store, said respective delivery agent, and said respective supplier.

37. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 36, wherein said logistics intermediary communicates with said respective store, said respective delivery agent, and said respective supplier in a manner selected from the group including, mail, courier, fax, and the Internet.

15 38. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 28, wherein said respective supplier is adapted to generate a purchase order for said respective store based on the order information generated by the respective buyer.

20 39. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 32, wherein said scanner employs a computer program having said "exception" report and said "disposition" report.

40. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 39, wherein said scanner employs the computer program having an exception report comprising a "overage" menu, a "shortage" menu, a "damaged" menu, and a "suspend" menu each respective menu being selectable from the display of said scanner.

25 41. The system for delivery of goods as recited in claim 39, wherein said scanner employs the computer program having a disposition report comprising a

"complete" menu, a "damage" menu, a "refusal" menu, and a "cancel" menu each respective menu being selectable from the display of said scanner.

Sub A2 5 42. A system for integrating information for the delivery goods from a supplier to a buyer, the system having at least one delivery agent, at least one store, at least one supplier, and a plurality of buyers, said system comprising:

means for utilizing a communications network to transfer order and shipping information between the respective supplier, the respective delivery agent, and the respective store;

10 means for utilizing a logistics intermediary coupled to said communications network, said logistics intermediary being adapted to employ an electronic manifest;

means for providing order and shipping information to the at least one delivery agent and the at least one supplier, wherein said at least one delivery agent is adapted to delivery and install the goods ordered by the respective buyer based on information in said electronic manifest; and

15 means for scheduling the shipment of goods produced by the at least one supplier based on said order and shipping information, an exception report, and a disposition report; and

means for updating the electronic manifest during and after the order has been executed.

20 43. The system for integrating information as recited in claim 42, wherein said means for utilizing a communications network comprises means for the at least one store to receive said order information generated by each respective buyer and communicate the order information to said logistics intermediary.

25 44. The system for integrating information as recited in claim 42, wherein said means for utilizing a communications network further comprises means for said logistics intermediary communicating with the respective store, the respective delivery

agent, and the respective supplier in a manner selected from the group including, mail, courier, fax, and the Internet.

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45. The system for integrating information as recited in claim 44, wherein means for updating the electronic manifest further comprises means for generating said exception report and said disposition report.

46. The system for integrating information as recited in claim 45, wherein said exception report comprises a "overage" menu, a "shortage" menu, a "damaged" menu, and a "suspend" menu.

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47. The system for integrating information as recited in claim 45, wherein said disposition report comprises a "complete" menu, a "damage" menu, a "refusal" menu, and a "cancel" menu.